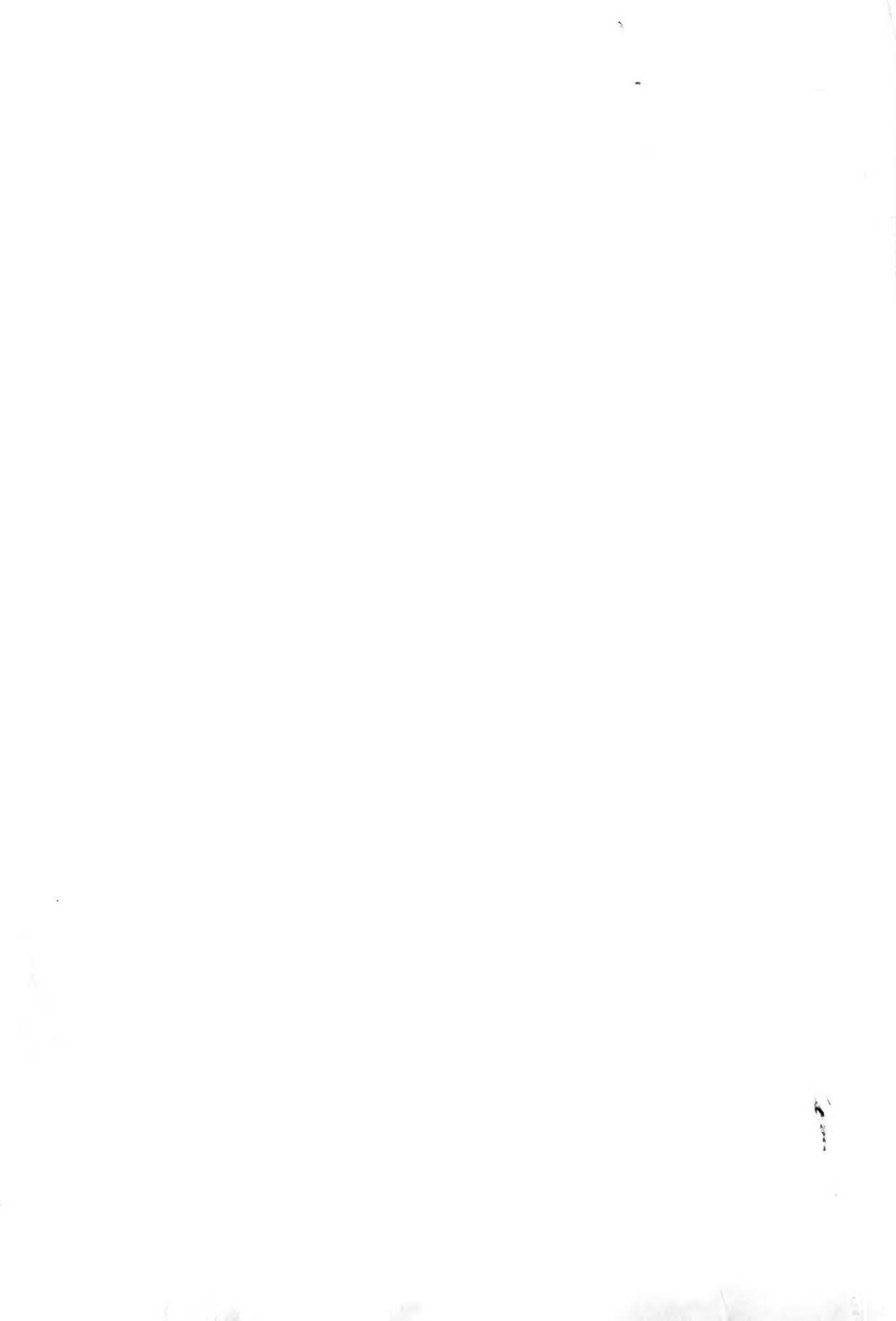


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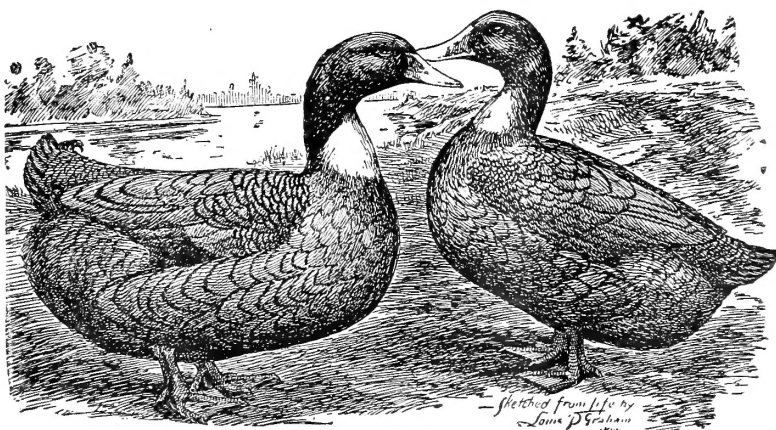


Bletts' Poultry Pointers, Fenwick, Mich., has been consolidated with this paper.

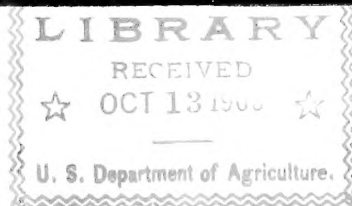
The Eastern Poultryman



Vol. 4 Freeport, Maine, September, 1903. No. 12



BLUE SWEDISH DUCKS.



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NOTE—1 claim my males the richest colored in existence.
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ENTIRE LOT OF BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE

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The White Rocks score from 93 to 95½.

The Golden Wyandottes score from 91 to 93½.

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Breeders for sale to make room for chicks. Many of these are fine exhibition pullets, and all bred from my **NEW YORK and BOSTON WINNERS.** They won't cost you much more than common stock. Write for prices.

Eggs after June 1, Half Price.

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At the great show in Newark, won all the honors.

Fine cockerels for sale at reasonable prices. Eggs for hatching. Write for circular.

FRED M. SYMMES, - Winchester, Mass.

The Eastern Poultryman.

ESTABLISHED 1899 AS THE POULTRYMAN AND POMOLOGIST.

DEVOTED TO PRACTICAL POULTRY CULTURE.

Vol. 4.

Freeport, Maine, September, 1903.

No. 12.

Practical Poultry Pointers.

(Written for the Eastern Poultryman.)

Have a place for the storage of leaves under shelter, and they will be found equal to anything that can be procured for the use of the hens in winter. They afford the best material in which to scratch and also prevent drafts of air along the floor. Along with the leaves lay in a plentiful supply of dry dirt, and the winter work will be lessened.

It is a task to go into the poultry-house at night, take each hen off the roost and dust the body with some substance obnoxious to lice, yet there are times when it should be done, especially during the summer. A mixture for that purpose and which is cheap is made by using one pound of sulphur, four ounces of Scotch snuff, two ounces of Dalmatian insect powder and half a pound of carbolate (not carbonate) of lime. It must be thoroughly mixed and kept in a closed vessel. Hold the fowl head down, and with a pepper box, dust well in among the feathers.

Just about this time of year the breeders will have a large surplus of stock which cannot be kept over winter, and now is the time to buy, as they will sell much cheaper than during the winter or spring. There are many birds owned by breeders which are termed "culls," but their defects consist of such trivial drawbacks as a white spot on a feather, twisted comb, or lack of proper color in some section. These culls may have the same parents as gold-medal prize-winners, and are frequently superior to the prize-winners in hardiness and for general purposes of utility.

September is not too soon to hatch chicks for broilers that are to be gotten into market by Christmas. If the incubators are started in September the chicks will be out in October, which leaves them just about the proper length of time to make growth by Christmas. The strongest competition will be in the frozen stock, but buyers will always purchase the broiler in preference to the late chick that has been kept in cold storage. It is true the prices will not be as high as in the spring, but the cost of raising the broilers in the fall will be much less, and then profits will be fully as large.

The only fowls that require help in the summer and fall are the moulting hens, and the best food for them is such as will assist in producing feathers. Linseed meal is the best of all foods for moulting hens, and the proper way to give it is to make a cooked bread composed of four parts bran, one part ground meat and one part linseed meal, giving one meal a day. It is also excellent for laying hens, and may be given them at night, allowing a meal of lean meat in the morning, but the non-layers should receive no food whatever on a range, nor should foods be given fat hens.

Farmers do not give the hens credit for all that is done by them. The proper

mode of estimating the value of poultry and eggs is to compare the work of the fowls with something else on the farm. One who has given the matter consideration draws a very nice comparison by stating that eggs are produced largely at certain seasons from the waste products of the farm, and that in the winter fifty dozen eggs will bring more cash to the farmer than a load of hay, which occupied a patch of ground larger than the poultry yard to grow it, to say nothing of the men and teams to plow, harrow, mow, rake, load and haul the hay to market. Yet the fifty dozen eggs can be laid by only five hens in the year, and the profit will be greater than from an acre of wheat or corn after the cost of the production of the grain has been subtracted. Fifty hens, then, should give the same results (with a liberal allowance for the cereals) as can be obtained as profits from ten acres at the prices ruling from grain last spring, and one does not have to wait until harvest time to get the profits from the hens.

Douglass mixture is composed of one ounce of sulphuric acid, one ounce of copperas and half a gallon of water. It is recommended as a tonic for fowls, but it is really a poison, and while its use once a week may do no harm, the practice of using it as a regular tonic will result in the destruction of the flock. The free sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) attacks all organic substances, and the fowl is no exception. In experiments made, in which a teaspoonful of the mixture was added to a gallon of drinking water, the fowls were apparently improved in appetite for a few days, but gradually declined and finally became weak and debilitated. Examination of the fowls that were killed showed the liver to be very large and soft, while small tumors were noticed. The intestines contained red sores, as though the lining membranes had been rubbed off. The throats were affected with small tumors, and every portion of the bodies seemed affected in some way. If a bird is healthy it needs no such tonic, and so far as Douglass mixture is concerned it should be avoided.

When eggs bring a low price there is a desire to preserve them in some manner so as to get better prices in the fall. The question is frequently asked, how can eggs be preserved to the best advantage? The first point to consider is that the eggs must be fresh and must not be bought from neighbors, as a single bad egg will injure all. The next is that eggs from hens that are not with males will keep three times as long as those that contain the germs of chicks, hence all males must be removed from the yards, as the hens will lay as many eggs without their presence. All depends upon this one point of no males. Violate that rule and the effort will be useless in the preserving of eggs. Eggs must be kept cool, not higher than sixty degrees; a cellar is an excellent place. Put them in an airy box, or lay them on racks, so as to turn

them twice a week by turning the box up side down, and no solutions of lime or salt or any other substance will be needed. They will keep for three or four months, having a much better appearance than limed eggs, or those preserved in any other manner.

A fact that is now coming before the poultry fraternity at large is that more attention must be paid to the breeding of fowls for utility than has been done in the past. All thoroughbred varieties of fowls should be bred for utility first, leaving the less important points of mere fancy as a secondary matter. Not that one should advocate the doing away of breeding for feather and form, for it has been one of the great means of the rapid advance of the poultry interest during the past few years, but if all fanciers had tried as hard to breed great layers as they have to breed fine feathers, the result would have been still more satisfactory. Fowls can just as well be bred to be extra layers, and still possess all the fine fancy points, as to be bred for fine fancy points without regard to egg production. It may take much longer to bring them to the desired perfection of "standard" points, yet in the end there would be strains that combine utility with fancy. It is very natural for the breeder of fancy fowls to desire to excel at shows in "standard" points, consequently in forming his breeding pens, he takes his best "standard" birds without regard to egg production, the result being fine feathers and fair laying, while if he had taken his most vigorous, best formed and best laying females, and mated them with a vigorous male so marked as to overcome, in greater or less degree, their bad points, and although his birds may not be so finely marked as in the first mating, he will be started on the right road and will inevitably succeed. Fanciers should not forget that the main end of poultry is to produce eggs and meat for the table, and that the chief end to be sought for is not altogether fine appearance. The aim of every fancier should be to combine the two, giving fancy a secondary place to utility, yet keeping close to fancy points as far as possible, so as to preserve the purity of the breed.

R. B. SANDO.

Potsdam, N. Y.

Reproducing the Buff color.

(Written for The Eastern Poultryman.)

In an article in the August EASTERN POULTRYMAN, written by Mr. Geo. S. Barnes of Battle Creek, Mich., the man who is doing so much good for the pretty Buff Leghorns, he says—in regard to exhibition Buff Leghorn chicks, "You can tell absolutely nothing whatever about the color. If a bird has a very decided black or white tail it will never get buff, but the color can be quite bad and eventually turn out to be as sound a buff as you could ask for."

Now what I offer is not in criticism of

Mr. Barnes' method of selecting chicks that will eventually develop into good birds—for we all know that a chick with some white will sometimes come in buff and one with dark in wings or tail will also become solid color, but this is not the rule. Usually a chick that has dark or white in its first feathers will develop more dark or white in the adult plumage. I am quite sure Mr. Barnes would not advise using birds that (as chicks) had dark or white in plumage as breeders even if they were pretty to look upon as grown birds. In years gone by I have tried breeding from such birds but never with satisfactory results. It has been an up-hill road to produce clear birds in wings and tail but this can be done by selecting birds that were buff from the start and that have solid buff in the hidden web of wings and tail.

Don't breed from anything else,—you are taking a long step backwards if you do. "Cull out all those that have wry tails, deformed beaks and crooked backs" as Mr. Barnes says. (These defects are usually caused by inbreeding.) If your chicks have solid color back of them,—by this I mean buff in both webs of the wings and tail, not the dark or smoky color that we often see in so-called solid birds. Select the ones that have solid buff for their baby dress, mark them, and they are the ones that usually give you the best feathers when they mature and will make safe breeders to tie up to the next year. I have never been able to raise first prize New York or Boston winners from birds with dark in plumage but I have raised from solid colored birds four-fifths of the first prize winners at New York, 1902-1903 and Boston, 1901, on females besides many of the best prizes on males. I will admit that you will get fine exhibition males from solid females mated to a male with a little dark in tail but you will have to discount your females for they will be mealy and have more or less dark in plumage. I prefer an even colored lot of females to one or two good males. If you are to try Buff Leghorns start with solid birds. Mr. Barnes must have them or he could not have won at Chicago, but he won't sell them for one or two dollars apiece. Buy one good bird instead of half a dozen of the average kind, it will be a short cut to success. From the solid birds you buy you will get a good percentage of solid chicks—those are the ones you are looking for, but don't use the ones that have white or dark in chick feathers and shed out buff afterwards for breeders. You will be sorry if you do.

In some varieties of chicks—the Black Langshans for instance, the white and canary yellow in chick plumage is considered a sure sign that the adult bird will have a better color than the bird whose chick feathers were quite black. This shedding out process works all right with the black varieties and some of the parts colored, but my experience has been it will not work in the buffs.

Mr. Barnes says, "If you have the right line of blood raise all the well-formed chicks regardless of their color." Yes—that is all right, raise them if you like, but be careful not to use them all for breeders. "Grow them well and keep them in good condition. Don't expect poorly raised birds to be rich in color even if they are well bred." True—I have in mind a man in this city who spent nearly \$100 in Barred Plymouth Rock eggs from a Massachusetts breeder. The chicks were crowded and poorly raised. In the fall I had a chance to

look them over—not one would win at a third rate county fair, and they were all from five dollar eggs.

Every year I have to farm out a large part of my chicks. I hatch them in an incubator and when they are about six weeks old I put them out in the country after culling all those that have a little dark or white in plumage. I sell these culls for market price to friends and neighbors who are glad to get them for they make fine layers. One man who lives about twelve miles from my place has soil and surroundings particularly adapted to raising high grade buffs and their diet of curd and yellow corn seems to agree with them just right. In the fall it is hard work to find a poor specimen in this man's flock. On the other hand I have sent out chicks equally as good to parties and in the fall it would be hard to find a first-class bird. Raising is more than half the battle in fancy poultry.

Solid buff color is all right and we have it. Let's talk about that nice concave sweep of back and deep full breast that we see in the best specimens of Brown Leghorns and what we are trying to get in the pretty Buffs.

EDWARD M. DEERING.

Biddeford, Me.

The Future of Poultry Shows in America.

When we look over the field and note the number of exhibitions that are held annually, we sometimes find ourselves wondering where we're going to land, and whether there is a possibility of a collapse from our own weight. I have studied the business as carefully perhaps as anyone interested in this line of work, and as the local associations of any organization will give stones to the structure. I have given them more thought and attention than the larger exhibitions.

I have seen many local shows where there were from 400 to 1,000 birds upon exhibition, and as well acquainted as I was among the fanciers, I had never even heard the names of any exhibitor until I met them in the show. I have wondered where and how they would dispose of their surplus stock, as without some revenue from the business they had undertaken, it could not last more than one or two years. And I have staid over an additional day at some exhibitions to watch results. Sometimes it seemed there was no call while I was in the show, except a few breeders buying from one another. At other times, buying was brisk in nearly all varieties, the farmers especially buying at fair prices, the surplus males of the birds considered the best on the farms. It is interesting to note that where these local shows succeed, and in localities where they have exhibitions, a far better grade of poultry is found among the farmers and poultrymen. In fact, so marked is the improvement in this direction that Fowler, Swift, Armour and other big packing concerns study the situation, and see to it that their buyers watch carefully for this particular stock.

The local shows have been the power for improving the standard of farm bred stock, and should be encouraged in every way possible. They not only assist the fancier, but they assist the farmer in that particular locality, and assist the industry in all parts of the world, as the stock bred on many of our Western farms is eaten in the old country and at the best restaurants in America. And, with the present cold storage arrangement, the

thoroughbreds that are raised to a higher degree of perfection sell higher on the market, and not a few times you will find the name of the variety on the bill of fare at some of our finest catering places. Where ten years ago, one could scarcely find a sign of pure bred stock in any crate of market poultry, to-day you can see it in almost every crate that is offered for sale, and in the choicest markets of the country you will see the different varieties crated separately, and the prices are from two to eight cents per pound higher than for the scrub stock.

This breeding of better poultry and the demand for it from the best posted buyers in the commercial field has brought a gradual rise all along the line, until to-day a farmer looks upon his surplus hens in the same manner that he does his hogs or sheep. He knows there is a market and a good price for them at all times. The fancy breeder is encouraged to push ahead, as he has learned that his surplus stock is always in demand by the market breeders. The fancy breeders have to-day three buyers for every good bird they have to sell.

In looking over the remarkable growth of the business and comparing it with ten years ago, one might think we were poultry mad, had made a fad of the business and might overstep ourselves. In a case of this kind, it is always well to look to other fields and see whether or not we are playing on false grounds. One glance at England will convince us that we have not started yet. So far as the fancy is concerned, we look only to four months in the year for our poultry exhibits, and sometimes think that we are overdoing it at that. While England, Ireland and Scotland, with about as much territory as two states of this country, hold them every month in the year. In looking over a recent copy of *Poultry*, published in London, England, we find in these three countries for the month of August no less than eighty-two regularly conducted poultry shows—not fairs or combination exhibitions, but straight poultry and pet stock exhibits. With this number of exhibits in the old country, and all of them apparently on a paying basis, there is no reason why the business in this country should ever reach high water mark.

Within the next fifty years, we will need ten exhibits where we have one now and the interest in the business would increase in proportion. We would not intentionally encourage any man or woman to do that which our better judgment told us would not be profitable to them, and if we did not have every faith in the poultry business, and the fancy side of it at that, we would not be devoting the better years of our lives to this line of work. There is no better business, nor one that will yield a better profit, if honestly handled, than the breeding of fancy birds. There is room for 1,000 breeders for every variety where we have one breeder for that variety to-day. May the number increase!—*Theo. Hewes, in Island Poultry Journal.*

A Word of Praise.

Milburn, N. J., Aug. 22, 1903.

EDITOR EASTERN POULTRYMAN,

Dear Sir:—Naturally I cannot identify the Mr., Mrs. or Miss—who wrote "Practical Writers" for (August) EASTERN POULTRYMAN, but I shall be obliged if you will kindly send him or her my love, with the wish for even more power to his or her elbow.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES SHACKLETON.

Breeding for Egg Production and Experiments in Incubation at the Maine Experiment Station.

While the discussions are going on in the poultry papers, regarding the advantages of breeding from heavy layers, it is interesting to note the important work which has been done by Prof. G. M. Gowell of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.

On Nov. 1st, 1898, the tests were begun and have continued to the present time. They were undertaken for the purpose of procuring data relative to egg production, and also, by selection and breeding, to improve the quality and increase the number of eggs produced.

In order to study individuals as well as flocks, trap nests were placed in the thirteen pens included in the tests, and daily egg records kept with each individual bird during the twelve months following. With some of the largest yielders the records were continued into succeeding years.

Each year certain progress has been made along the several lines of study involved and the result of each year's work has been published in the Station Bulletins.

The work for the year 1902 is reported in Bulletin 93, July, 1903, of which the following is an abstract.

When the data from the first year's testing were secured, the birds that had yielded 200 or more eggs of good shape, size and color, were selected for "foundation stock," upon which, with the additions made to them in succeeding years of birds of similar quality, the breeding operations were to be based. It is known that the laws of inheritance and transmission are as true with birds as with cattle, sheep and horses, and when we consider the wonderful changes that have been made in the form, feather and egg production of hens since their domestication commenced, there is ample room for assuming that a higher average egg production than the present can be secured, by breeding only from those birds that are themselves great producers.

The purpose of this work should not be misunderstood. We are not trying to produce stock that shall average to yield 200 eggs per year. If, by furnishing the male birds which we are raising to poultrymen and farmers, the average egg yields of the hens of the State shall be increased to the extent of one dozen per bird, the value and importance of this work will be many fold its cost. While we are not breeding for fancy or show purposes, the birds are kept within the limits of the requirements of the breeds, so far as markings are concerned. No matter how great the number of eggs yielded, if they are not of good size, shape and color, the bird is rejected as a breeder.

It is yet too early to report what the results of this work are to be. Sufficient time has not elapsed since beginning the tests, to increase egg production, or establish claims of increased productivity.

During the four years in which we have been selecting breeding stock by use of the trap nests, we have given full year tests to over a thousand hens and have found among them 35 that have yielded from 200 to 251 eggs each in a year. Several have each yielded only from 36 to 60 eggs, and three have never laid at all, to the best of our knowledge.

A study of the monthly record sheets shows not only great differences in the capacities of hens, but marked variations in the regularity of their work; some commencing early in November and continuing to lay heavily and regularly, month after month, while others varied much, laying well one month and poorly or not at all the next. We are not able to account for these vagaries, as the birds in each breed were bred alike and selected for their uniformity. All pens were of the same size and shape and contained the same number of birds. Their feeding and treatment were alike throughout.

With the most careful selections we could make, when estimating the capacities for egg yielding by the types and forms of birds, we found we were still including in our breeding pens hens that were small workers. Many of the light layers gave evidence of much vitality, and in many instances there were no marked differences in form or action, by which we were able to account for the small amount of work performed by them.

Every hen that has laid large numbers of eggs through the first, or the first and second, or more years, has shown much vigor and constitution. Some individuals, have laid heavily for a few months and then drooped and died, seemingly because they could not stand the demands made upon them by heavy work.

RECORDS OF PULLETS, 1901-1902.

Nov. 1st, 1901, 55 Barred Rocks, hatched during April, May and June, and 40 White Wyandottes, hatched during the same months, commenced their year's work with the trap nests. These birds were brought in during the last two days of October, from the portable houses, out on the range, where they were raised and had their liberty. Most of those hatched during April had been laying well during October, and some of them commenced the first of September. The eggs laid during September and October were lost, so far as individual records go; so the birds have not got credit for the work they actually performed during their best twelve months. Reference to the table shows October, 1902, almost bare of eggs. Could the birds that were laying when on the range the previous October, have started their records on the first day of that month, rather than a month later, and have been credited with the eggs they did lay during the twelve months following, more of them would have been placed above the 200 mark, and those now placed there would have their records materially advanced. As it stands now, however, we found 7 birds among the 55 Barred Rocks with yields of from 201 to 240 eggs in the year.

The 55 birds laid 7,972 eggs during the year. Four birds were stolen, and if the 24 months they were out is accounted for we have 53 birds for the year averaging a little better than 150 eggs each. Three birds died during the year.

The 40 White Wyandottes laid 4,607 eggs, and if we deduct the time that was lost by those stolen, we have 39 birds for the year, averaging 118 eggs each. None of them reached the 200 mark. Six died during the year.

The yield of the White Wyandottes was lower this year than in previous years. This may in a measure be accounted for by the fact that they were allowed out of doors part of a wet day in April and quite a number of them took colds. A marked reduction in the egg

yield was noted, extending over several weeks.

It is believed that one bird, No. 1,069, laid no eggs during the entire year. A very few eggs were found outside the trap nests, but none that could be traced to her. There appeared to be no reason why she should be a drone as she seemed to be in good health, and her external form was not unlike that of her laying mates.

COMPARISONS OF THE YIELDS OF HENS DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND YEARS OF LAYING.

With many poultrymen the idea is prevalent that if a hen lay but few eggs the first year, she is likely to do better the second year, than though she laid well during the first.

The data so far secured, does not show that hens that yield 120 eggs, or less, the first year, yield satisfactorily the second year. Those that yielded in the vicinity of 100 the first year have yielded very lightly the second year.

We have generally found it necessary to have the pullets of the breeds we have used, hatched by the last of April in order to have them laying regularly by the first of November. They then have a full year for work before they are removed the following fall to make room for the new pullets that must be in winter quarters early, if they are to do satisfactory work. If the pullet does not commence laying until January, she does not have a full year before she has to give way to the young stock, by the last of October, or the first of November.

This feature of poultry management counts for a great deal and has much to do with determining the incomes of flocks.

EXPERIMENTS IN INCUBATION IN 1902.

In many experiments there are disturbing causes which interfere with the work and render unreliable the results, which seem to point in certain directions, and indicate certain truths. This is true with all of the investigations we have made concerning incubation. We have in use several good incubators and have had considerable experience in operating them and others. We think we have no trouble in getting as good results as when the eggs are submitted to the careful treatment given by the mother hen. With eggs from hens that have been laying but a short time we usually get hatches of from 70 to 80 per cent from the entire number of eggs incubated.

During the last three years we have planned and carried to completion a large number of incubation tests. By use of the trap nests we were able to know the source of every egg and it was thought that the eggs from the same hens, all laid within ten days of each other, and divided by selecting the first, third, fifth, etc., for one lot and the second, fourth, sixth, etc., for the other lot, would be nearer alike in freshness, fertility and germ strength, than though they were selected from different hens, however much alike such birds might be.

In this way we could have all of the eggs of each hen in a class of her own—in two lots—and it was thought that the comparison of one hen's eggs with each other would yield more reliable data than would the comparison of the eggs from different hens. This assumption is true if the individual bird yields uniformly fertile eggs throughout the test. As investigations progressed we became aware of the great variation in the chick producing

capacity of eggs, and that the assumption of uniform fertility in the eggs of each hen for considerable periods of time was not sustained.

The data show plainly the great variability in the fertility of the total egg yield of different hens; some birds yielding eggs that are all highly fertile, and others giving eggs that are all completely infertile, being as clear after 21 days of incubation as at the start. Again some hens are very irregular in the fertility of their eggs; an egg laid one day yielding a chick, while that laid on the next is completely infertile; or they are fertile for a day or two, or more, and then infertile, becoming fertile again after one, two, or more eggs are laid. This seems to be true with some individuals, whether they are laying regularly or irregularly, or whether they have been laying a long or a short time. The eggs from other hens seem to be slightly fertile, the embryo dying before the tenth or twelfth days. This appears to be regular with some hens, and irregular with others; as some give eggs of low fertility one day and high fertility on the days immediately following or preceding.

The results given in the table plainly show the great variability in fertility. For instance: the egg of first hen on the list, No. 511, was laid May 21st, and it stopped developing about the tenth day of incubation. The next one was laid May 24th and it yielded a good chick. Both eggs were in the same incubator, on the same shelf, where there is every reason for believing that the conditions were alike. The next egg was laid by the same hen two days later—May 26th—and the germ died on the sixteenth day of incubation. She laid an egg the next day following and development stopped in it on the tenth day of incubation. The next eggs were laid by her on the 29th and 30th insts. and both yielded good chicks.

During this ten days' test she laid six eggs, three of which yielded chicks, and in three of which development stopped after having advanced half the period, or more. Had these six eggs been taken promiscuously and divided into two lots which were treated differently, three chicks possibly might have been secured from one lot, and three, half developed dead chicks, from the other lot, and the conclusion drawn that one lot had right and the other lot wrong conditions. Or, if differently divided, the results might not have been so pronounced, but equally unreliable.

The incubation tests made in 1902 were undertaken in the belief that the knowledge of the source and history of every egg would enable us to avoid disturbing causes and leave only the leading questions for consideration. Had the investigations been made with eggs taken from the flock or pens of hens, as laid, without reference to the individual sources from which they came, and divided into lots, and subjected to the conditions of the test, results could have been secured that, unquestioned, might have seemed to give positive evidence, pro or con, and which might have been published without any suspicion that the results were untrustworthy.

In the twelve incubation tests which we have made this year, but not reported, the eggs from each hen were divided, in the order in which they were laid, by alternation, into two lots in each test. The results of such division, if applied to hen No. 511 would have given one chick hatched from lot 1 and two chicks hatched from lot 2, and yet the results would not

have been produced by incubation conditions, but rather by some previous conditions for which we could not account. No 511 is discussed because she is first on the list; what is true of her holds good in a greater or less degree with many others.

Could eggs of known fertility be secured, incubation tests could be made that would be simple and reliable. In the light of the data given in the table and that obtained in the twelve incubation tests there appears to be no means of securing positive information regarding this point. In the absence of positive information probably the best plan to pursue is to secure birds by test that yield eggs of uniformly high fertility and rely upon the averaging of the results of many incubation tests. In this test the birds were by no means fresh, but had been working several months.

It does not appear that heavy yielding is a hindrance to fertility if the birds have had a period of rest following it, and resumed heavy work.

One of the first birds found to yield over 200 eggs per year in 1899 was No. 4. During the first year she laid 201 eggs; 140 the second, 130 the third, 119 the fourth, and she is now doing her fifth year's work. She was one of the first birds selected for the foundation stock of our breeding operations, consequently the eggs secured from her, each of the last three years, from February to July, have been incubated, and mostly found sufficiently fertile to yield chicks, or developed as far as the 17th day.

No. 286 was a late hatched chick in 1898, and did not commence laying until February 12, 1899. In a year forward from that day she laid 206 eggs; 157 during the second, and 138 in her third year. When nearly three and a half years old she died from an accident, having laid 119 eggs during the last 160 days she lived. Her eggs were remarkable for their fertility, every year, very few of them failing to yield well developed chicks.

No. 318 was hatched in April, 1899. During her first year she laid 237 good brown eggs. After she had laid 200, the next dozen were saved as laid, and found to weigh 1 lb., 11¼ ounces. In her second year she laid 102 eggs, and 49 in her third year. She now looks the picture of perfect health and vigor, and is not over fleshy or "baggy." Vigorous as she has always been, but very few of her eggs have yielded chicks, or been well fertilized, although she has been bred to different males.

Two other birds were remarkable for their small yields. No. 686 laid 67 as her first full year's work, and No. 693 laid 47. In May of their second working year, after their winter vacation, the 15 eggs they both laid during that month were found to be completely infertile. In these cases it certainly was not heavy work that caused infertility. Both birds always appeared to be in good health until about three months after the test when No. 693 failed and died.

Although in a general way we may regard infertility as likely to result after hens have been laying long and heavily, it is by no means true that it is always so.

How a Beginner Learns.

When I first began to raise poultry I at once realized that pure bred poultry was best. I thought I must have some extra nice cockerels, so I drove ten miles to a fancy breeder and after looking over his

plant and pricing about two dozen cockerels ranging in price from 50 cents to \$3.00 I finally selected two at 75 cents each and two at 50 cents each, and went home to show my wife what a wonderful thing I had the courage to do.

But, alas! I was doomed to disappointment. Those wonderful high-priced birds were not the noble breeders that I had anticipated, and the result was disastrous. Of course I did not at that time realize that I had only bought scrubs at a little above market price, but thought so long as they were "full blooded," and from a poultry fancier, I was all right. It now just began to dawn upon my mind that if I would buy something fancy I must pay for it, but I had not even yet opened my eyes fully. I next went to an honest fancier and actually paid him \$1.00 for thirteen eggs—an outrageous price I thought, but it proved my starting point. I hatched six males and six females that were truly fine. I had now concluded that if the breeder was honest his price was not too high for me, so I began to grope my way along the passages of this dark theory until I acquired a large flock of fancy birds that were the envy of every old breeder who saw them. I had at last learned how to buy, but I had yet "to be shown" how to sell.

After selling a few birds at 75 cents and \$1.00 that ought to have sold at \$5.00 or \$10.00, I cut another tooth.

I have had many experiences since then, some wise and some otherwise. I have learned to take care of chickens and deal squarely and fairly with the customer. I write this of my beginning to show how beginners feel about high prices for stock. Let me say to the beginner that right now is the time to form the resolution I formed after costly experience: That is, first find a reliable man who has what you want, then buy the best he has, or at least the best you can afford. Then you will know you have started right.

I know by experience that it is wise to buy the very best even if the quantity must be reduced. I had rather start with one really good male and one extra good female than one really good male and a dozen such females as are sold by breeders at 75 cents or \$1.00 each. If you buy one cockerel at \$10.00 to \$20.00 and one or two females at say \$5.00 each, during the year you should raise twenty birds such as breeders sell at \$3.00; five worth \$1.00, and five worth \$5.00 each, and possibly two or three worth \$15.00 or \$20.00. Adding, we find you have made \$135.00 in all. On the other hand you buy a cockerel at \$2.00, and ten pullets at \$1.00 each. You should raise 170 chicks, averaging about 50 cents, total \$85.00. You are out much extra feed and trouble, and the balance would be in favor of the three birds at \$30.00. Remember I have passed over these milestones and know by experience.

No bird is too good for my yard if I raised it. There are birds I cannot buy, and that is right, as I have several I would not sell. I can appreciate the effect that kind of a bird has on a flock. It means years of patient work and volumes of experience that has cost something.

If a new beginner would mount to such a prominence at a single bound he must expect to help defray the expense of producing it.

Amateurs must remember that breeders have much to contend with. For instance, a breeder receives a letter saying: "Send best prices on a cockerel and three pul-

lets." Nothing is said about the quality. Mr. Breeder may send price on cheap stock, and by so doing disgust a man that really wanted good stuff; or he may send price on fancy stock and thereby disgust a person who wanted a \$2.00 cockerel and \$1.00 females. So it goes. Buyers should not accuse a breeder of dishonesty because he ships him just what he bought. It costs money and lots of it to produce fancy birds, and you are not expected to get them unless you pay according to quality wanted. Be sure to state just what is wanted, then the breeder can answer your inquiry in a brief and satisfactory manner, and thus save time and friendship.—*Poultry Gazette*.

Poultry in Italy.

A correspondent of *Country Gentleman*, writing from Milan, has the following to say of the poultry industry in Italy:

Over the greater part of Italy the main object is the production of eggs; hence the class of fowls which has hitherto been generally kept is of the lighter and more active type. In the Rome district, production is not very great, but in Tuscany, more especially round the city of Florence and about half way to Pisa, there is considerable poultry keeping, although as one travels through the country there are hardly any fowls to be seen. Every farmer keeps a few birds, which he restricts as far as possible to the homestead. In a land where grape cultivation is carried out as in Italy, it might be expected that poultry would be developed to an enormous extent, as in France; but the French and Italian vine growers have very different ideas as to the effect of poultry upon the land. In France it is believed that they help in the cultivation of the vine, and it is only necessary to remove them for a couple of months while the grapes are ripening, but in Italy exactly the opposite idea is held, and as a rule vine growers will not allow their fowls access under these circumstances.

On the western side of the Apennines, right down to the Adriatic, beyond Ancona, in the province of Emilia, in Venetia, in Lombardy and in Piedmont, large quantities of eggs are produced, but I do not think nearly to the extent found in England and America. An Italian farmer seldom thinks of eating an egg, but only keeps a few birds, and it is the combination of the multitudes of producers which yields the great shipments which are sent to England and to Germany. Any farmer who has fifty fowls is regarded as having developed his poultry to the fullest extent. The chief weakness, so far as I can see, of Italian egg production is that nothing has been done to improve the size of the eggs, and as a rule they are distinctly small.

In Spain a year ago I never saw a decent table fowl, and I am bound to say that while some of the birds in Italy are better than the Spanish, as a rule they are of very moderate quality. This must always be the case where egg production is made the primary object. The only exceptions were in Florence and Bologna, where we found a few birds in the markets better in size, carrying more flesh and showing signs of having been fed off before killing. Most of the fowls killed are very small, and in the hotels and restaurants the quantity and quality of meat are certainly limited. I saw a few ducks, small in size but good in quality, and also some turkeys, but the latter were only moderate in flesh. With

English cookery, Italian fowls would hardly be worth eating. In the shops and markets throughout the country the system which is met with to some extent in France of selling separately various parts of the fowls by weight is carried out to an enormous extent. On the stalls of poulterers were to be found combs, livers, gizzards, necks and also fillets, but in addition to these the heads and feet were sold—probably for making soup. Nothing appears to be wasted, and this economy of the various parts of the body is characteristic of the southern races. We must not forget, however, that in cooking, while meat is a necessity, it is only a minor part of the dish produced.

In short the poultry industry in Italy is in a decidedly backward state, and steps taken for improvement appear to be very few. Last year when I visited Hungary I found that a great deal had been done in this direction, and it is well known that considerable quantities of stock birds have been exported to Hungary with a view of bringing into line the poultry kept. Until steps are taken, therefore, to modify the class of fowls generally found upon farms of the country, improvement can scarcely be looked for. Probably more has been done in Italy in this direction than is evident at first, because in traveling through the country very few fowls are seen, as they are generally to be met with around the farm buildings. How far the local societies may help remains to be seen. The Italian peasants in many cases are wedded to their old customs, and are very indisposed to change. It will not be until they have realized the value of modifying their class of poultry that these changes will be carried out. Practically Italy is a virgin field so far as the sale of poultry produce is concerned, and we can only hope that the holding of this exhibition at Rome and similar shows at other centers will bring about the improvement so much needed.

Poultry on Small Farms.

In its crop report for August, recently issued, the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture includes an article on "The Management of Poultry on Small Farms," by John H. Robinson, editor of *Farm Poultry*. This report may be obtained by applying to J. Lewis Ellsworth, Secretary of the Board, State House, Boston, and those wishing to receive these bulletins regularly may have their names placed on the mailing list for that purpose.

In this article Mr. Robinson says: A large farm offers the best opportunity to keep poultry with little labor and comparatively large profits, but the owner of the large farm is not often much interested in poultry. It is the small farmers, under the necessity of making the most of every opportunity to make money on their land, who are attracted by the possibilities of poultry culture. A very large proportion of the small New England farms are of such dimensions and proportions that the fowls cannot be given range. Because of this, many small farmers interested in poultry have adopted the intensive methods which small poultry keepers in towns often find necessary, but which large poultry keepers and farmers ought to avoid. Intensive methods make the care of poultry a grind and drudgery, so that the poultry keeper's time is almost fully occupied in caring for a few fowls. Many farmers

who follow the intensive system and find it profitable for a time have neglected other lines of farm work, while others, unwilling to do this, have reluctantly given up their intention of increasing their stock of fowls. The best solution of the problem of the small farmer who wants to keep a few hundred hens, and still give most of his time to other things, will be found in the adoption of methods intermediate between the intensive methods of the town poultry keeper and the free and easy methods that work well on large farms.

Mr. Robinson then goes on to say that for more than a decade the interest of poultry keepers has been almost monopolized by intensive methods, which are necessary to secure high averages of egg production. These large egg yields are often secured at such cost of care and food that the actual profit per fowl figures small. By the colony system the owner of a large farm will distribute his fowls over the farm, and, giving them room and range, relieve himself of the necessity of doing for them many of the things which the intensive poultry keeper must do daily. Then follows an extended illustration of the difference between the two methods, particularly as relates to supplying green food, meat food and exercise.

What we are seeking, says Mr. Robinson, is a method by which the farmer can keep as much poultry as possible without giving it the detailed attention that must be given when the land occupied is stocked to the limit. The problem is neither a deep nor a difficult one. As the farmer who cannot give his poultry range must have yards, the obvious thing for him to do is to lay out his yards according to the size of his flocks, limit the total of fowls kept to the capacity of the yards, make house of such dimensions as are required, and place them singly or in pairs where they can be most readily reached in making the rounds of the place. He then gives details as to the size of houses and yards required under this method, and points out that the expense of fencing is limited to the increased cost for the end fences, no more fencing being required for the division and side fences than when a continuous connecting house with narrow yards is used. He further explains the best methods of regulating the work of feeding, watering, etc., so that fowls may be kept in good condition and the greater part of the day still left free for regular farm work.

In closing Mr. Robinson says: Poultry keeping ought to be an important feature on every farm, and a pleasant feature of farm work. It may be, if the farmer will only study to adapt his stock and his methods to the capacity of the farm under conditions satisfactory to him.

To Preserve Eggs.

Have a kettle of boiling water on the stove and into that dip the eggs. Let them remain as long as it takes you to count ten fast. This recipe has been in use in my family for forty or fifty years. The eggs cannot be told from perfectly fresh eggs, as the hot water cooks that fine inner skin, and there can be no evaporation. There is no taste of lime about them put up in this way. It is a fine thing for country women who want to hold for better prices, and also for the city woman who wants to purchase for future use while eggs are cheap.—*August Woman's Home Companion*.

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 ideas of mutual interest.

SEPTEMBER, 1903.

The Trap Nest and Its Advantages.

We are quite frequently asked: "What is a trap nest and what is it used for?" "Won't you explain it?" So for the benefit of those who have never used or seen a practical trap-nest equipment we will explain the matter. To some poultry keepers the trap nest is a "new thing under the sun," to many others it is a well known appliance as stable as the incubator or brooder.

The term "trap nest" is an abbreviation of "trap nest box", which was the original name. For sake of brevity we omit the word "box."

A trap nest is a box or casing adapted to contain an ordinary hen's nest of straw, hay, or other material, and so constructed that the hen, having entered for the purpose of laying, cannot get out until some one releases her. Any device that does not answer to the above definition is not a trap nest and will not do the work of a trap nest.

Various schemes have been advanced, for commercial purposes, that are claimed to do away with the necessity of trapping the layers and their eggs. That proposition is very simple, all ordinary nests obtain that result without any mechanical accessories, but accurate knowledge of the product of each hen cannot be obtained at a practical expenditure of time and space without trapping the hen and her egg.

A reliable trap nest not only prevents the escape of the layer, but also prevents the entrance of a second hen until the first has been released and her egg re-

MAINE POULTRY SHOWS.

Freeport Poultry Association, Freeport, Dec. 16-18, 1903.

Maine State Poultry Association, Lewiston, Jan. 5-8, 1904.

St. Croix Poultry Association, Calais, Feb. —, 1904.

corded, or marked with her band number. An equipment of reliable trap nests shows just which hens lay and points out the eggs laid by each hen. It is true that under some circumstances a few birds may lay outside of the nests, but they are always the same birds and, being few in number, they can be discovered and culled out, or taught to use the nests.

When nests of any kind are properly designed, installed and looked after, the birds that will not use them are almost invariably very poor layers, and should be culled out. Hens that will lay in ordinary nests will usually adopt good trap nests at once; a clearly proven fact that is not always understood.

Where traps are used, the individual birds are identified and their egg records kept by means of individual numbers that are stamped on leg bands.

Trap nests of a practical kind do not require any watching. The attendant visits the pens at reasonable intervals to feed, water, and otherwise look after the flock, and it is during these visits that the trap nests receive his attention. With the best traps this attention takes but little time, and gives the caretaker the most practical opportunity to keep thoroughly informed as to the condition of his birds. Our best traps are also so devised that they can be used either as traps or open nests at the option of the user.

No one can possibly learn when the first trap nest was devised, or by whom, but it is certain that they date back more than twenty years. Very naturally all the best trap devices, and many that are useless, have been patented; but that is not such a hardship as some might imagine. Although its practical qualities are preserved and protected by "letters patent" the best yet offered is still the least expensive of any practical trap nest, when properly installed for practical work.

The crude modifications of animal traps that have been advanced for this purpose in one way or another for years have done much to discourage poultry keepers from seeking further for something that they could use practically with reliable results. In this respect the history of the trap nest idea is similar to that of artificial brooding;—the results have been even more unfortunate sometimes.

People usually form their opinions of things mainly from their own experience, or lack of experience, as the case may be, so it is not strange that trap nest progress has not been accompanied by any very rapid increase in general knowledge of the subject. Artificial incubation has been practiced for more than two

thousand years, yet thousands of people will take their first lessons in the art the coming season.

It is absolutely necessary that commercial success anticipate general knowledge and acceptance for a long time, and it is only recently that commercial success has begun to attend the promotion of the trap nest idea. Any attitude that is antagonistic to the commercial side of any effort tends to retard progress in that direction. Critics of the trap nest idea and the 200-egg hen proposition are no doubt well aware of that. The trap nest promotes knowledge, and knowledge is not easily seduced by the allurements of enterprises that are opposed to the exploiting of exact poultry facts.

Very many converts to any progressive idea that is new to them persist in wasting both time and money going over old and abandoned ground, enthusiastically adopting obsolete schemes only to abandon them when their ardor is cooled, as thousands have done before. It is the comparatively small minority who are wise enough to endeavor to begin an investigation where others leave off.

Trap nests enable the poultry keeper to cull out the individual birds that do not lay profitably (a considerable portion of the flock in very many cases), those that lay eggs that are not satisfactory in size, shape, color or texture of shell, and to breed only from birds whose individual egg-producing ability has been found to be superior to the average. That is the easiest, the quickest, and the least expensive way to produce a genuine heavy-laying stock of fowls. If we can purchase prolific blood for a foundation we will, of course, gain time accordingly.

Trap-nests enable the fancier to select his best birds more easily and surely, for they enable him to discover inherent merits and defects that the eye of the most skilful will hardly detect by observation alone. Characteristics are shown by the eggs and the birds' laying habits that trap nests enable the breeder to note.

A high average egg yield is obtained, not only by breeding from good layers but also by culling out the poor layers as soon as they show their true value. The average is then divided among good layers only.

There is a certain degree of interest in the discovery that many pullets lay but 30, 60 or 100 eggs, while others lay 150, 200 or more, in the same time, right in the same flock, but the practical and profitable way is to discover those poor layers as early in the game as possible and turn them into money. Trap nests and experience enable one to do just that.

Observation never was and never will be able to do it, except under special and very exceptional conditions. Those who claim otherwise somehow neglect to furnish any evidence to prove their theories.

The individual nest is the rule in nature. The best trap nests are individual nests to the extent that but one bird occupies the nest at any one time. There is no crowding upon the nest. Each layer has undisturbed possession while laying. That means better laying and prevents the breaking and soiling of eggs, and other well-known troubles that often result from the use of one nest by several birds at the same time.

The best trap nests will cure and prevent the habit of egg eating. That feature alone will justify their adoption in many cases.

Trap nests are almost indispensable to the pedigree breeder. The plan of penning special hens singly with a male, or the more or less unreliable and time-consuming expedient of attempting to distinguish the eggs of different breeding hens by their appearance is entirely done away with where accurate trap nests are used daily during the breeding season.

Some experienced breeders who have not tried these nests and, while freely admitting their advantages, imagine that "they take too much time," are actually spending more time with their birds in one day than they would have to spend in two if they used a suitable number of the best trap nests; and they get but a fraction of the information that these nests would give them.

Record keeping takes time, but is well spent time when the information is practically utilized. The attention of trap nests takes time, but it is very little time when compared with common notions of the matter, if enough good nests are used. The difference between the time actually required to care for a practical trap nest equipment and the time that many imagine must be spent with them is much more than they do require.

Time was when one could not put in enough trap nests so that they could be attended practically, because the nests were too large, or too expensive, or both large and expensive, but that time is past. We can now get nests that are small enough and cheap enough to be of practical use by purchasing the plans and right to make and use the best patented device.

There should be from one-third to one-half as many nests as there are laying hens; then one does not have to run to the pens every hour to empty the nests so that other hens can use them.

On places where no one is about during the day trap nest records cannot be obtained continuously. In such cases the traps can be employed occasionally, to learn which hens are laying or to

ascertain the type of each layer's egg, but at other times they are used as open nests and they make most excellent nests when used that way.

The Fundamental Laws of Breeding.

One of the sources of failure of the novice is his ignorance of the laws of reproduction, and many an old fancier would make fewer mistakes, and mate with more intelligence if more general knowledge of these laws of nature was in his possession, says an English writer. These laws can only be discovered by observation and experiment, and it sometimes takes years to find out their limitations and exceptions, but when once discovered they are universal in their application.

The fundamental principle of reproduction is that "Like begets like," and the whole science of breeding is based upon this rule, its modifications, limitations and exceptions.

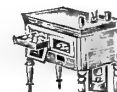
Thus, we find that a chicken mated with a chicken will produce a chicken; one of a certain breed mated with one of a like breed will produce a chicken of that breed; and the same is true of a variety and strain, but when you go farther than that you are treading on uncertain ground. But we deduce from this another law, that the first rule is true only in proportion to the similarity of the specimens mated. We mean that the more alike the male and female are, the more like them will the progeny be, and the larger will be the per cent. that will approach the standard of the parents.

The above principles are axiomatic, but when we go further, we get into the domain of the speculative, as is the case in the next rule, that the power to transmit characteristics is in proportion to their fixity.

For instance, a breed is created by fixing certain characteristics so fast that the parents will have the power to impress them upon their progeny, and the breed cannot be said to be established until these characteristics have become thus fixed. This "fixity" is obtained by the application of the first rule, that is, by mating specimens with the same characteristics. Here is where a very common mistake of the beginner is made by mating specimens of two different strains, and very frequently thus bring into war antagonistic tendencies emphasized by the methods of mating of the owners of the two different strains. You should therefore know the antecedents of your breeding stock, and, if possible, learn the method of mating of the man from whom you purchase your stock.

This is the logic that drives the fancier to line breeding. This power to transmit characteristics is largely influenced by the vigor of the parent. Thus, if we mate a strong, vigorous male of pronounced type

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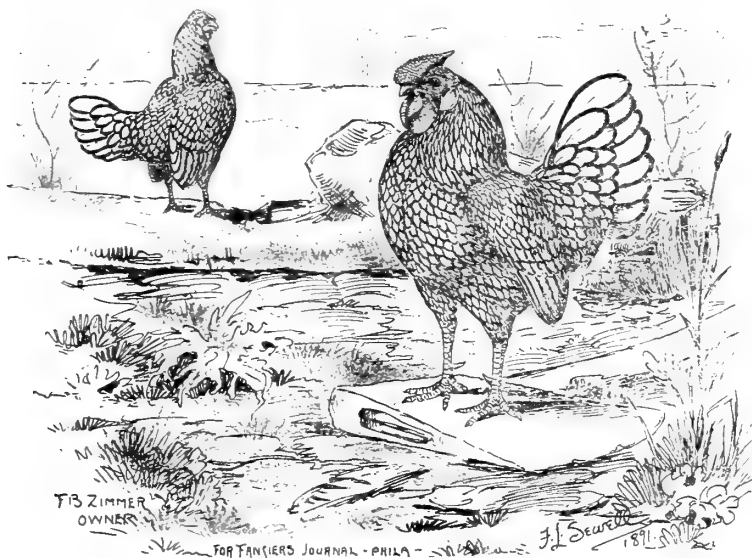
to females of no pronounced type, we will find that a large per cent. of the progeny will have nearly all the characteristics of the male parent. The same will be true if a weakly male is mated with vigorous females. You will find that the largest per cent. of the progeny will be like the female. A logical deduction from this rule is that a pronounced feature in either parent will in all probability be transmitted to the progeny. Thus, in mating breeders always try to compensate for the faults of one parent by the especial features of the other parent. This is what may be called the "rule of compensation."

Vigor is obtained by care and feed from the eggs of the grandparents to the eggs of the progeny. Keep your chickens always in a healthy condition and you will have vigorous chicks. Fully one-half depends upon the care which is expended upon the stock. Thus a natural tendency can be accelerated or discouraged by a system of feeding. A tendency to lay can be encouraged, a tendency to put on flesh given full sway, or a tendency to grow "small by degrees and beautifully less" assisted.

These are some of the fundamental rules, and the logical deductions from them, which if followed will assist the breeder in his striving to produce the birds of perfect type which may in turn reproduce those qualities in their offspring.

White Holland Turkeys.

White Holland turkeys are said to have come from the country whose name they bear. Originally they were a small-sized turkey, about like the old-time black turkey for size, in form a short-bodied, compact-built turkey, pure white in plumage, with pinkish white shanks; the pinkish white shank is their emblem of purity. They were not originally what might be called a sturdy variety—in fact, they were rather delicate in comparison with other turkeys. Some years ago white sports, presumably from the bronze variety, were crossed upon the White Holland, increasing size, vigor and prolific stamina. This same influence has changed the shade of color in the shanks, but this has in no way injured them as a market turkey. To-day the white turkey, if well selected, is one of our very best market turkeys.—*Country Gentleman.*



Golden Sebright Bantams, bred by F. B. Zimmer, Gloversville, N. Y.

Facts as I Have Found Them.

BY "THE COLONEL."

III.

We do not hear as much said about borrowing birds as we did a few years ago. Have the managers of our shows ever been called upon to enforce that general rule found in nearly every premium list, reading something like this? "Each specimen competing for a prize shall be entered in the name of the actual owner. Any attempt to evade this rule, as in borrowing birds, or in buying with the understanding that the birds shall be returned after the exhibition, will exclude all coops entered by the offending party, if discovered in time, and all premium money awarded to said party shall be forfeited to the Association."

We have seen unmistakable evidence of the violation of this rule in several shows the past year, but it has been passed over by the show managements as of little consequence. At a prominent show last winter I called the attention of the president to a case in which I knew some birds were borrowed. His reply was something like this: "Our rules say 'Competition is open to the world, the best specimen to win,' and if a man does not care to show his own birds, and chooses to borrow or lend, it is no concern of ours. We award the prizes to the best birds regardless of ownership."

All this seemed to him to be perfect justice, and from his standpoint it was so, but there are other people whose interest in the matter is or should be worthy of consideration. The great aim of the poultry exhibitions is not only to reward the exhibitors of meritorious birds, but to make the public acquainted with the various breeds, and to inform the prospective buyer where he may purchase stock or eggs of the desired breed. If then, Mr. A, who is a skilful breeder, loans a string of birds to be shown by Mr. B at New York, Mr. C at Boston, and Mr. D at Chicago, and at the close of the last show the birds are returned to A to be mated for breeding, how are Messrs. B, C and D to satisfy the buyers of eggs from their prize winning stock? At the same time Mr. F has a string of birds of nearly equal merit, but is beaten in each show by the aforementioned ringers. He sees the show honors and the money

given to men who are not the owners of the meritorious birds, and he sees these same men receive the money and book egg orders, when he knows their stock is inferior to his. He has paid large entry fees and the heavy expenses of showing in order to advertise his honest business, while B, C and D could each pose as having won the principal prizes at one of the large shows, and the show record would thus serve to advertise a dishonest business.

I believe the birds should only be shown by their actual owners, and hope that, at the coming winter shows, we shall see a rigid enforcement of the rule. It will help the legitimate breeder, and the huckster having due notice thereof may govern himself accordingly.

We cannot well discriminate against the quite common practice of showing birds that have been purchased, for if the birds are to be retained for breeding purposes the customers are not defrauded. Of course the birds may be sold back and forth so there may be the same results as in the case of borrowing as shown above, but such special cases should have some special rules. A general rule properly enforced will protect the honest fanciers, and the man who stoops to mean practices for the sake of cheating his fellow workers will in most cases be found out. Our Associations should enforce all their published rules, and exhibitors should be taught to obey them.

Poultry Notes.

(Written for the Eastern Poultryman.)

A duckling six weeks old should weigh four ounces; two weeks, nine ounces; three weeks, one pound; four weeks, one pound and nine ounces; five weeks, two pounds and two ounces; six weeks, two pounds and eleven ounces; seven weeks, three pounds and five ounces; eight weeks, four pounds; nine weeks, four pounds and eight ounces.

Infertile eggs will keep three or four times as long as those that have been fertilized. The eggs must be gathered from the nest as soon as laid, placed in a cool or cold place, slightly separated from each other, and be turned every other day; so treated they will keep perfectly for 100 days.

On most farms where the hens have a

free range, they will do very well in the summer without grain, food and the insects they pick up supplying a well-balanced ration. Of course, if they are confined the case is different.

In mating ducks, about seven are allowed a drake in the beginning of the season and more as the weather grows warmer until a dozen are reached.

A Light Brahma hen's egg will weigh from two and a quarter ounces to two and a half ounces, or about one pound and twelve ounces per dozen.

It costs one cent each in the east to produce an egg. Out west, where grain is cheaper, their cost would hardly exceed a half cent.

Never send a fowl to market unless it is in as fat a condition as possible. If a fowl will take on an extra pound of flesh, it will pay to feed it well until it reaches that stage. The reason is that there is not only a gain in weight, but in price. If a six-pound fowl, not in a choice condition, will bring ten cents per pound in the market, the extra pound may cause the fowl to sell for twelve cents per pound, being a gain of thirty-four cents for the whole, due to both increase of weight and better quality, while the food required for producing the extra pound may not cost six cents. Quality is a prime factor in market poultry.

If water must be provided, give it in the morning, fresh, and be careful to clean out the fountains or troughs in order to guard against disease; the roup and cholera are always spread through the flock by each member being compelled to drink from the same source as the sick fowls.

G. H. SAMMIS.

Centreport, N. Y.

The Value of Green Food.

The value of green food for poultry can hardly be overestimated. I am coming more and more to the conclusion that it should form a far greater part of the diet of our hens than it does. We do not know how much a hen on the range does consume, but we do know that she eats less grain. We all understand that a certain amount of succulent food is necessary in order that the fowl may fully assimilate her other food, but as a general thing the quantity is far too limited. Many flocks that are unproductive during a large portion of the year would doubtless lay well if this one addition were made to their diet. Especially is this true of the family flock that is usually yarded in a small, bare run in the back yard. Often these fowls have little or no green food, and are usually unproductive except in the spring. A grain and meat diet does not bring the eggs, and the owner, unless he has an ardent love for fowls, comes to the conclusion that it does not pay to fuss with them, and that it is unprofitable to keep hens in confinement. So it is unless we can give them at least a portion of the variety they will find on the range.

Green food can be easily supplied even to quite a large number of fowls if one has the forethought to plant a small garden for that purpose. Of such crops as the fowls like best, or which will answer their requirements, large quantities can be grown on very little ground. The refuse and excess from the family garden will keep a large flock. There is scarcely anything that grows that the hens will not eat, but they have an especial liking for lettuce, tomatoes and cabbage. Even

the weeds they will devour ravenously if left long without succulent food.

For the purpose of experiment I am keeping a flock of fifteen Barred Plymouth Rock chicks in a small, bare yard. They have a rather dark shed to run under, and roost in the brooder which mothered them as long as they needed heat. From their first feed they have had food constantly before them in a self-feeding box. At first it was a prepared chick food, later wheat and beef scraps mixed. Twice a day they are fed green food, consisting mostly of lettuce, some lawn grass and weeds. For this they seem especially anxious, and while I have not weighed or measured it, I am positive that they have consumed twice the weight of green food that they have grain and meat combined, and they have grown rapidly and fattened well.

These yarded chicks have made a better growth than others on free range, and I have come to the conclusion that where a plentiful supply of roughage can be furnished, chicks can be raised to as good advantage in small yards as when given their liberty; but the supply of succulent food must be large, much larger than one would think. In fact, although I have raised chickens for many years, I never would have believed that they could consume such quantities of green food as have these fifteen Plymouth Rocks.

Beets or mangel-wurzels make the best winter food, as they are much more easily stored and kept than cabbage or other vegetables, and are relished fully as well by the fowls. It is a difficult matter to keep a large quantity of cabbage over winter, and when it commences to decay it is most disagreeable to handle, while beets keep better and occupy less space. I store some cabbage, of course, but it is only fed occasionally.

A high protein ration of meat and grain is considered essential to egg-production, but its efficacy is increased many fold by supplementing it with a goodly quantity of succulent food. So when eggs are wanted, winter or summer, be sure there is a plentiful supply of green food.—*Ohio Poultry Journal*.

Entry Dates and Specials.

The exhibition season is upon us, and breeders who have had a successful season are now counting up the premiums that will soon be theirs—if they have made no mistakes as to their birds! Why isn't it the proper season before issuing the premium lists for the managers to weigh and consider certain features as to the conduct of their exhibitors rather than later, and rather than not give them any consideration.

One feature, it seems to us, should be well considered and digested, and that is the time when the entries shall close. This is brought to our attention by a card just at hand that the Atlantic City show has extended its time one week from that originally announced. We admit that it requires some time to enter up the entries, send out shipping cards, lay out the exhibition hall and generally prepare things for the beginning of the show, so that the birds can readily be caged and in place for the judges for the first day. On the other hand the exhibitors require all the time possible to locate how many specimens they can send, how many will be fit, which variety should go and which should not be entered. We recall a few years ago it was customary to enter the birds on the first day of the show. That

of course is wholly impracticable and out of date. The tendency is to extend the time so that as at Boston last year the date of closing the entries was about a month before the show, in fact the New York show was holden a week earlier and the entries closed a week later than for Boston. Perhaps our Boston friends will say we never had so large or so good a show as in 1902. We agree in many classes the entry was large, the quality fine, but in the Game Bantam classes the entry was the smallest that we remember to have seen. That the interest in these classes is not waning but is increasing, is readily shown by examining the lists for Hagerstown, Johnstown, Newark, Providence, Framingham, New York, Chicago and of other principal shows. The same will apply to other classes. That entries were not sent in for that show, we know in several cases the early closing of the entries was the cause. Many times during the two or three seasons last past we have heard the regret expressed that would-be exhibitors had not entered birds on account of the early closing of entries, that at the date of closing they were uncertain that they could exhibit and thus remained out, when, had it been nearer the time of holding the show they would have made their entries and shown good birds. Possibly the show managers did not care for more entries! If so they took just the right course in early closing of entries! But from the amount of advertising done by the managements of the several shows we were led to believe that each and every one wished to secure the largest exhibit of first class specimens possible.

Still another feature of equal importance to exhibitors is that of announcing the judges who will pass on the several classes. They being known, it will be for the exhibitors to decide whether or no he will trust his birds to his judgment. If one is selected who is of broad reputation for honesty and intelligence it will be an advantage to the society employing, as most exhibitors will decide to show. If you have a "judge" who has no knowledge, skill or honesty, or either element is lacking in his makeup, it is better by far not to name the judges, but on the other hand if their names are not given exhibitors should fight shy of sending their birds to such a show.

That a liberal offering of "specials" secures a large entry and of the best specimens is proved by a comparison of the premium lists and a catalogue of entries of the leading shows. Take the Bantam classes in the New York show as an example; the specialty clubs through that society offer a long list of specials and so placed that an exhibitor having even a single specimen of extra quality can send that alone and compete for a special, while in other shows one may win with ordinary specimens by sending a large number, while exhibitors who have quality rather than quantity stand no chance at all. Which is the better, twenty specimens of high quality and fine points, owned by ten or twelve exhibitors, or the same number of fair quality owned by four or five exhibitors? We submit the former. Which is the better for the show? Which will cause a larger attendance, more discussion of the birds? More reputation to the show, more prestige in winning, the former or the latter? There can be only one answer, the former!

Why does the Boston show have so large an entry of Brahmas? The specials offered as they are in such a variety of ways draw the birds, the birds draw the

breeders and fanciers. We would not disparage a liberal list of specials for collections, but if it comes to a choice of specials for collections or for individual birds we urge the latter by all means. We are as well prepared to send numbers as the ordinary run of breeders, and probably breed as many of our varieties as the majority, so that no claim can be made against us that we urge this on account of having so few birds.—*Hermitage, in American Stock-keeper*.

Prairie State Incubators in Foreign Countries.

At last the report that A. F. Cooper, of the Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., has gone to England, can be confirmed. He sailed Aug. 29th, and will be away a month or six weeks.

The London agent of the Company has been very anxious to have him come over for more than a year, and early last year it was reported that he had gone, but the report was untrue.

The London agency besides controlling the British Isles has the countries of Western Europe. The business has grown to such an extent and become so important that Mr. Cooper was finally convinced that it should receive his personal attention. The probability is that he will take a trip through France, Germany, Holland and Denmark, and possibly extend it through Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Portugal, to visit the sub-agencies of the London agent in those countries, accompanied by Mr. Colt, and learn from personal observation the needs and the possible demand for the future. From the way the demand from those countries has increased during the past year, the indications all point to an enormous business in the near future.

Show and Association Notes.

R. I. POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

The Premium List of the R. I. Poultry Association fix the 1903 Providence Show to be held Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5, will be mailed Oct. 1, 1903. Address for copies the Secretary,

W. I. BROWN,
63 Exchange Place,
Providence, R. I.

WHITE WYANDOTTE CLUB.

The National White Wyandotte Club has just issued a new circular which should be in the hands of every breeder of White Wyandottes. Anyone interested in White Wyandottes should send their name and address immediately to the secretary of the club and receive a copy at once.

ROSS C. H. HALLOCK, Sec.,
St. Louis, Mo.

FITCHBURG POULTRY SHOW.

The Fitchburg Show will be held Dec. 15, 16, 17, 18, 1903. For particulars address

J. LEE FROST, Sec.,
Fitchburg, Mass.

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NOYES'S BUFF ROCKS. Best Blood in America. Winners this season and last, 37 prizes on 68 entries: 30 firsts, 12 seconds, 10 thirds, 5 fourths, and 40 specials. Eggs, \$2 per 15 (straight). Two choice pens, headed by males with records of 22 firsts. Satisfaction guaranteed. Send for Circular. P. W. NOYES, Expert Breeder, Quaker Hill, Conn.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS. Thompson's famous, prize winning "Rinslet" strain. Eggs from choice matings, special for a few weeks, \$1 for 15. One set of one hundred sets, all same price. Few excellent birds for sale; moderate price. JOHN P. LIGHTFOOT, Penn Yan, N. Y.

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BARRED AND WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS.—Hawkins strain direct. Light or dark matings. Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds—Crowthier strain direct—30 eggs, \$1.50. From good utility bred stock 50 cents per dozen. W. D. HOFFES, South Wal-doboro. P. O. Address, Lawry, Maine.

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MY WHITE ROCKS have won over 70 prizes at the leading shows the past year, including Boston. Three times cup winners. Strong, vigorous stock to suit the fancy and utility. Eggs \$2 per 15. JOHN OSTLER, 19 Summer St., Methuen, Mass.

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The subject matter of this great contest is the total vote cast for Governor in the States of Ohio, Massachusetts and Iowa on the third day of November, 1903.

Every person interested in the science of Government should be interested in the election in these three States, as much valuable information can be gained by a study of the political conditions involved in these elections.

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To the fifth nearest correct estimator.....	200 00
To the sixth nearest correct estimator.....	100 00
To the seventh nearest correct estimator.....	50 00
To the eighth nearest correct estimator.....	35 00
To the next twelve nearest correct estimators, \$15.00 each.....	180 00
To the next twenty-seven nearest correct estimators, \$10.00 each.....	270 00
To the next nine hundred and thirty-three nearest correct estimators, \$5.00 each.....	4,665 00
Twenty special prizes of \$1,000 each.....	20,000 00

Total.....\$40,000 00

Twenty Special Prizes of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded for the nearest correct estimates received between certain specified dates. The contest is still open for special prizes between dates named below.

on or after August 1 and before August 15.....\$1,000 00 on or after Sept. 1 and before Sept. 15..... 1,000 00
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My estimates of the TOTAL vote for Governor in the three states are as follows:

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The Editor of THE EASTERN POULTRYMAN is satisfied of the reliability and fairness of the Press Publishing Association.

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To aid in forming your estimate we furnish the official figures showing the vote for Governor in each of these States for the past ten years as well as to give the total vote for the three States combined. The total vote for the three States is found in the right-hand column.

Year.	Ohio.	Mass.	Iowa.	Total.
1891	795,629	321,650	420,212	1,537,491
1893	823,658	365,012	415,806	1,604,476
1895	837,466	328,121	401,345	1,566,932
1897	854,986	269,795	428,292	1,553,073
1899	908,159	299,166	433,351	1,640,676
1901	827,566	324,526	390,489	1,542,581

What will be the total vote for Governor in these three States combined on the 3d day of November, 1903? Figure it out and send in your estimates. It may mean \$10,000 in cash to you.

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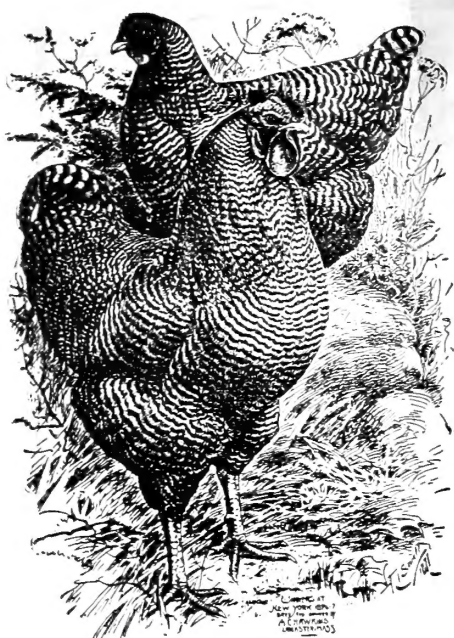
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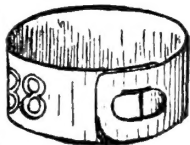
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